

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 3-5 and 46 as follows:

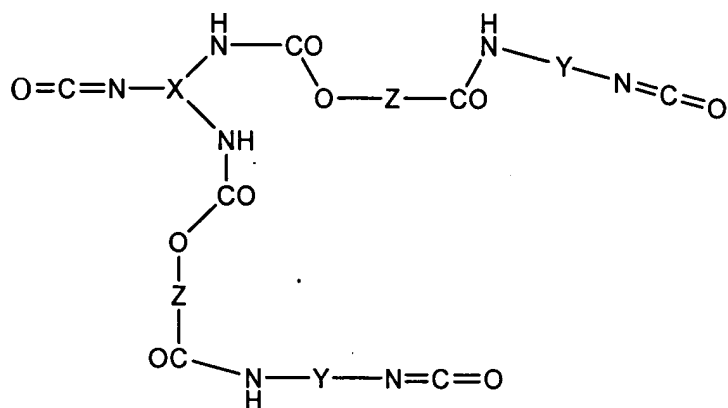
1. (Previously Amended) A prepolymer, prepared by reacting a mixture comprising:
 - (a) at least one multifunctional compound containing three or more amine or isocyanate groups,
 - (b) at least one diisocyanate, and
 - (c) at least one diol,wherein said diol has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000, said prepolymer has a viscosity of at most 100,000 cps at 70°C, and said prepolymer, when reacted with an excess of water, forms a hydrogel polymer.
2. (Previously Amended) A prepolymer, prepared by reacting a mixture comprising:
 - (a) at least one triisocyanate,
 - (b) at least one diisocyanate, and
 - (c) at least one polyalkylene oxide having two terminal hydroxyl groups,wherein a molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.9-1.1:1.8-3.3:1.2-3.3, said at least one polyalkylene oxide has weight average molecular weight of at most 7000, and
said prepolymer, when reacted with an excess water, forms a hydrogel polymer.
3. (Currently amended) A prepolymer, prepared by reacting a mixture comprising:
 - (a) at least one triol,
 - (b) at least one diisocyanate, and
 - (c) at least one polyalkylene oxide having two terminal hydroxyl groups,wherein a molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.9-1.1:1.8-2.2:4.5-5.5, said at least one polyalkylene oxide has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000, and
said prepolymer, when reacted with an excess water, forms a hydrogel polymer.
4. (Currently Amended) The prepolymer of claim 2, wherein said molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.97-1.03:1.94-2.06:1.94-2.06, and
said at least one polyalkylene oxide has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000.

5. (Currently Amended) The prepolymer of claim 3, wherein said molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.97-1.03:1.94-2.06:4.85-5.15, and said at least one polyalkylene oxide has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000.

6. (original) The prepolymer of claim 4, wherein said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

7. (original) The prepolymer of claim 5, wherein said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

8. (original) A prepolymer of formula I:



Formula I

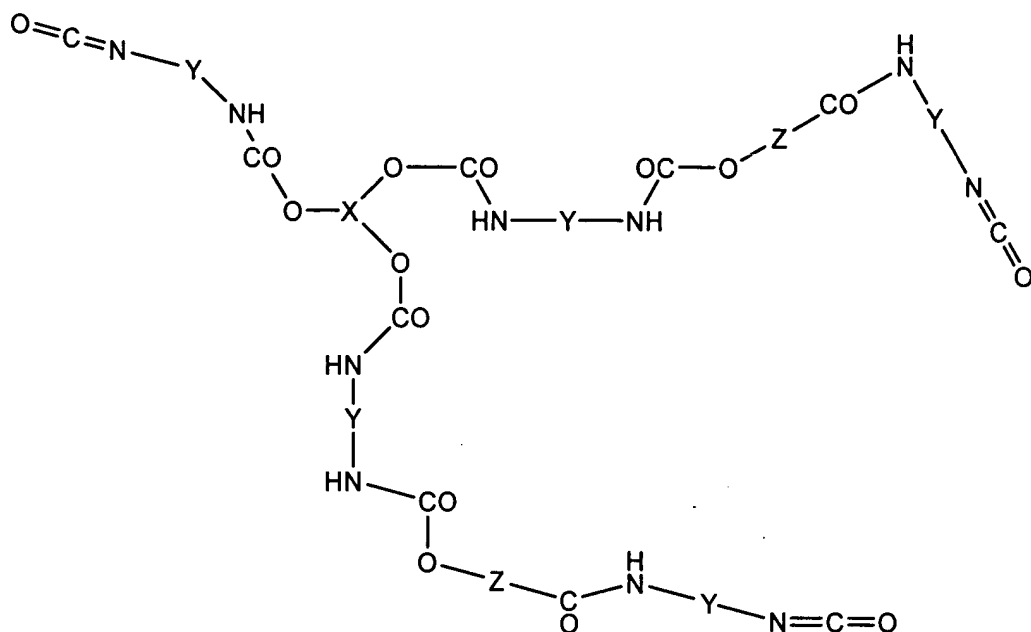
wherein X is a trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Y is a divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000.

9. (original) A prepolymer of formula II:



Formula II

wherein X is trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Y is divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000.

10. (original) The prepolymer of claim 8, wherein

Y is a divalent aliphatic group,

Z has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000, and

Said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

11. (original) The prepolymer of claim 9, wherein

Y is a divalent aliphatic group,

Z has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000, and

Said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

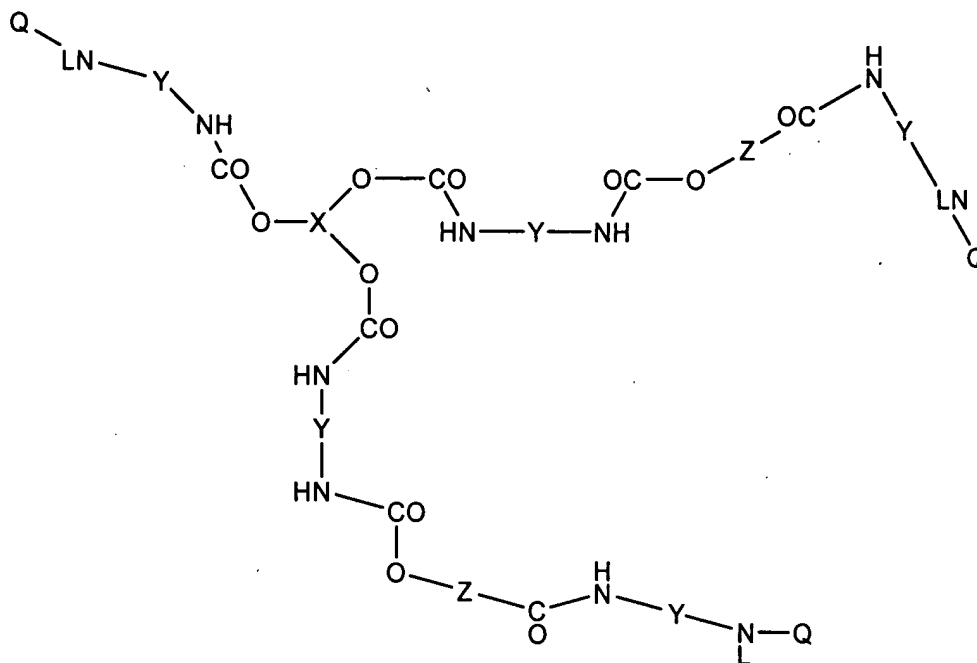
12-45. (previously cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The prepolymer of claim 1, wherein component (a) is at least one triisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of the isocyanate trimer of hexamethylene diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, p,p',p''-

triphenylmethane triisocyanate, the isocyanurate of isophorone diisocyanate, and the trifunctional biuret of hexamethylene diisocyanate.

47 – 54. (previously cancelled)

55. (original) A precursor to a polyurethane hydrogel having Formula (VIII):



Formula (VIII)

wherein X is trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

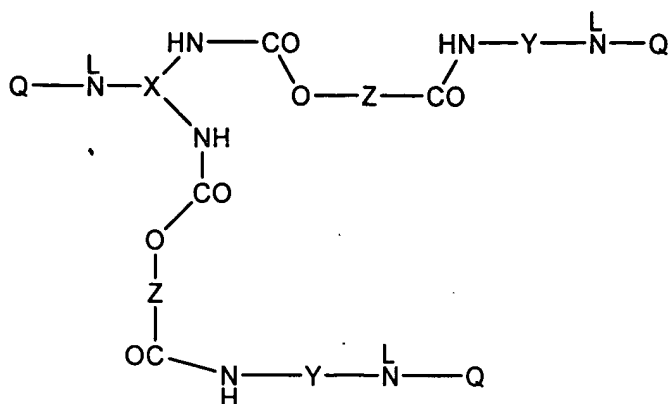
Y is divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000,

L is either hydrogen or forms a double bond, and Q is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, hydrogen and $O=C$, provided that when Q is $O=C$, L forms a double bond between nitrogen and the carbon atom of the carbonyl.

56. (original) A precursor to a polyurethane hydrogel having Formula (IX):



Formula (IX)

wherein X is trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Y is divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3)-\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})-$, and $-(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{O})-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000,

L is either hydrogen or forms a double bond, and Q is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, hydrogen and $\text{O}=\text{C}$, provided that when Q is $\text{O}=\text{C}$, L forms a double bond between nitrogen and the carbon atom of the carbonyl.